

7

ATHIRST.

O, pleasant hints of pleasant fruits,
To matted moss and mellow mould;
And bursting blossoms and budding shoots—
On gaily daisies of golden grain,
And cooling drinks to slake the thirst,
When will ye be at hand again?

For here, on wastes of death and drought,
I yearn for shadows of the South,
And cooling drinks to slake the thirst,
When will ye be at hand again?

Why should I live a shivering wreck;
The members of a faded leaf;
Where falls the wind, and faints the make?
Rise whither winds never run,
Non presso me, a little breeze,
Where there are shrubs to a span?

Let me be left, while down you lie,
In dreaming hours, the water drops
From rivers never dry, and never cease
To fall, and sing a lovely lay.

And while the sun is dull and dim,
With pallid glow from rain to rain,
Here let me sing a lovely lay
Of times when, when I was a boy,
For rivers never dry, and never cease
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much as could reasonably be expected, although it is
bored that at all greater increase may take place of
the actual state of the revenue from this source should
induce the Government to make those reductions in
the charge for messages which have so long been
strongly pressed on them.

THE LATE EXPLORATIONS IN AUSTRALIA.

ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY.

The first meeting of the Royal Geographical Society

presented was held on the evening of the

10th November at Burlington House, and was

numerously attended; Sir R. Murchison presided.

After the usual routine of business, the president an-

nounced that the subject for their consideration that

evening was the recent remarkable explorations in

Australia. He had always a deep interest in all

that related to that vast continent, and warmly

admired the energy and vigour of its settlers,

to less than their firm attachment and loyalty

to the mother country and its sovereign. It had

become the fashion of some quarters to talk

of secession on the part of the colonies, but he did

not believe that there was any ground for such notions,

as he was convinced that no people could be more

warmly attached to the mother country than the

British and its ruler than the inhabitants of the

various colonies of Australia. Communications had

been received from Sir G. Bowen, Governor of

Queensland, giving a brief report of Mr. J. E. Dal-

rymple's explorations in the neighbourhood of Upper

Valley, and from Sir R. Baily, containing a report of

Captain Norman and Mr. Landsborough's expedi-

tions from Moreton Bay to the Gulf of Carpentaria,

and from the south-western coast to the Gulf of

Carpentaria, and the continuation of the

river Darling—both of which journeys had resulted

in the discovery of the existence of large tracts of

country available for pastoral purposes. The chair-

man thanked the credit of that traversing the

continent of Australia was due to Burke, who lost his

life in the effort, but it was only just to add that equal

credit was due to his companion Wills, who had been

the topographer and astronomer of the expedition.

Then followed a report of Mr. R. M. Dalrymple, of

South Australia, late of the expedition of Mr. R. M.

which had been fitted out with a view of exploring

the country in the neighbourhood of Lake

Gregory. The theories of vast deserts and

inland seas in the interior of Australia

were gradually disappearing, and from his

experience he could say that the country, as

far as Lake Gregory was not a desert. Mr. Stuart

had discovered to trace a highway from Adelaide

to the Victoria River on the northern coast, which

was the nearest route to China and India, and

far preferable to any part in the Gulf of Carpentaria.

If ever cotton was to be grown in Australia, he

believed the latest spot for cultivation would be

found near the Victoria River, where there were

large tracts of fertile alluvial soil. With respect to

the loyalty of the Australian colonies, he was certain

that they entertained but one feeling, and that was

in favour of the continued connection with the

mother country. Sir Charles Nicholson, of New South

Wales, bore similar testimony to the loyalty of the

Australian colonies. Governor Kennedy,

of Western Australia, also bore testimony to the

loyalty of the colonies, and in reference to the

particular colony with which he had been connect-

ed, remarked that it had fulfilled the difficult but

useful task of converting these into honest men. Between

6000 and 7000 convicts had been sent to the colony

there, and yet the percentage of crime was as low

as in any portion of her Majesty's dominions, and

the reason was that men were there compelled to work

and there was plenty of room for them to do so. As

long as a due proportion of unskilled immigrants was

introduced with the convicts the colony would not

object to receive the latter. The president, in closing

the proceedings, congratulated the meeting upon the

interesting discussion to which they had listened, and

rejoiced to find that his opinion of the loyalty of the

Australian colonies was confirmed by the

experience of those who had held office, and

exercised authority in those colonies. It had been

very rarely that any colony had been so loyal to the

mother country as Australia. He was certain that

the colonies had never arisen in the colonies, but had

sprung up among some in high office at home. To

these gentlemen he would recommend the perusal of

the report of the late expedition, and the report of the

Colonies, in which it was shown that the greatest

sufferer by separation would be the mother country.

THE LATE SHOOTING TRIALS.—Some important

trials in connection with the late shooting trials

were conducted on Tuesday at the Court of the

THE SYDNEY MAIL, AGENTS for this journal

must lodge their orders for the quantity they may
require of the Town Edition with the counter clerk
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Mr. Clarke has issued for the present year not only new

pieces of music, but also a new collection, but will

compare in illustration and printing with many other

works which are usually imported from Europe. The

pieces of music contained in the album, with two

exceptions, are all new, and are of the highest quality,

and many of them possess very great merit. The illustrations

are numerous, and are from the pen of Messrs. Thomas and

Wigley. The title-page is a view of the entrance to

the city of Sydney, from the water, and is a very

interesting and beautiful illustration. The album is

extremely popular. "Night Bird Galop," now the favourite

air with the varieties of Terpsichore, is the first piece,

and is a very beautiful illustration. The album is

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